# THE OMEN



%71.4286 CIS SCUM! (NOT PICTURED: %28.5714 TRANS FOLK)

VOLUME 42 ISSUE 6 The Omen · Volume 42, Issue 6

#### Honored Guests:

Gracen Wiley - "Kermit The Frog"

Jonn Gardiner - "7 Orders of Scallion Pancakes"

Isainah rnann - "For all time"

Jes Idle - "Bees"

nB Corfrnan - "Nothing ever Hampens"

McKennna Coil - "I'm going to hide under a rock"

Fionnna Stewart-Fitz-Gerald - "I DON'T WANT YOUR BLOOD MONEY"

Submissions are due always, constantly, so submit forever. You can submit in rich text or plain text format by CD, Flash Drive, singing telegram, carrier pigeon, paper airplane, Fed-Ex, Pony Express, or email. Get your submissions to omen@hampshire. edu or Jonathan Gardner, Box 1203.

## olicy

The Omen is a biweekly publication that is the world's only example of the consistent application of a straightforward policy: we publish all signed submissions from members of the Hampshire community that are not libelous. Send us your impassioned yet poorly-thought-out rants, self-insertion fan fiction, MS Paint comics, and whiny emo poetry: we'll publish it all, and we're happy to do it. The Omen is about giving you a voice, no matter how little you deserve it. Since its founding in December of 1992 by Stephanie Cole, the Omen has hardly ever missed an issue, making it Hampshire's longest-running publication.

Your Omen submission (you're submitting right now, right?) might not be edited, and we can't promise any spellchecking either, so any horrendous mistakes are your fault, not ours. We do promise not to insert comical spelling mistakes in submissions to make you look foolish. Your submission must include your real name: an open forum comes with a responsibility to take ownership of your views. (Note: Views expressed in the Omen do not necessarily reflect the views of the Omen editor, the Omen staff, or anyone, anywhere, living or dead.)

The Omen staff consists of whoever shows up for Omen layout, which usually takes place on alternate Thursday nights in the basement of Merrill on a computer with an extremely inadequate monitor. You should come. We don't bite. You can find the Omen on other Thursdays in Saga, the post office, or on the door of your mod.



Front cover by Omen staff submitted by Jesse Ide Back cover submitted by F. Stewart-Taylor

# Jonathan Gardner

ןמיסה לש יחכונב בוהאה ילש ךרועה חמש הווצמ רב,

ומו אותנוי

Well, folks, this is it. The last Omen of the year. It's been fun, but it's time for us to say goodbye until September. In case you miss us over the summer, here's some music that you can listen to to remind yourself of the Omen and everything it stands for:

- -Punch 'Em in the Dick by Juicy Karkass
- -Muppet Christ Superstar
- -Pretty much all of Eurovision.
- -The entirety of Score: A Hockey Musical (note: must be sung along to.)

It's been a great year, full of Elvidillos (don't worry, these will be the last batch. Probably.) and people flooding our goddamn listserv with unsubscribe requests (even though it's very easy to do it yourself I mean come on) and student governance criticisms. I hope we've given you some small degree of entertainment while you flipped through an issue out of boredom in the library or on the toilet or wherever the hell you read the Omen. And if not, remember: the Omen is what you make it. You're in charge of the content, and if you think what's in here is shit, you can always submit stuff that isn't shit. Or submit more shit. Whatever works for you. Submit your homework, submit your doodles, submit whatever the hell you want. And come to layout, if you feel like hanging out with some nerds and eating scallion pancakes. Our door is always open on Thursday evenings.

So, let's talk about summer plans: I'll be in the Pioneer Valley doing some research assistant-y things on a project about citizen science (the prospect of which is pretty exciting), as well as covering some groundwork for my Div III (the prospect of which is completely terrifying).

Should be interesting; I haven't stayed in the area over the summer before, and I expect it to be a nice change of pace from my home and native land of New Jersey. Hopefully I never have to go back there ever again, because suburban New Jersey is exactly as dull and soulcrushing as you would expect it to be.

Also, this is also the last Omen that my esteemed predecessor as editor FStewz will be a part of, and at the risk of going into some sentimental bullshit, I'd just like to say that she will be dearly missed. She's been a crucial part of the Omen since before I was here, and things won't be quite the same around here without her. Certainly there won't be quite as many Playbadgers. In all honesty, though, I have a ton of respect for her and everything she's done, and I wish her the best after graduating out there in the real world.

-JGardz, signing off for the summer.

### Section: Speak

### The Accountability Manifesto: The Year In Review

Submitted by Jesse Ide

Boy! This year sure has been dramatic! Every year at Hampshire is dramatic but this year especially. I can say that because it was more dramatic than last year and those are the two years I know! Here are things that happened this year!

- 1. The start of our new student government! The Hampshire Student Union, which I regretfully named.
- 2. The STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS IN CASE YOU GUYS DIDN'T HEAR
- 3. Health services made the Student Health Advisory Council and then proceeded to ignore all of their student members who then quit.
- 4. The incident we now all refer to as "The Prescott Incident"
- 5. The eventual victory of the Bathroom Sign Wars!
- 6. The Shokazoba Incident!
- 7. A former student survivor came forward about being abused by the administration during the investigation of their assault,

students on campus then proceeded to scrawl "Expel Rapists" all over campus, supposedly in support of survivors, yet triggering survivors all over campus in the process.

- 8. The OL Stipends crisis!
- 9. The EMT defunding crisis!

This is a lot of crises! This is my end of year rant about how Hampshire students and adminitrators apparently can't fucking handle being accountable to their actions. Not all of those events have someone who could be held accountable... but a lot of them do.

Here's the thing about accountability, it is not pleasant happy sunshine and rainbows! Being held accountable means that someone is telling you done fucked up! They can sugar coat it all they want but ultimately you being accountable for your actions will involve the unpleasant reality that you did something bad!

Accountability is not fun. It is necessary. I ran the judicial system of a K-12 school for an elected term and it's what got me into Hampshire. I dealt with children of all ages getting into conflicts, mediating them and helping kids learn why what they did was wrong and figure out how to make sure they don't do it again.

Dealing with the mistakes of the new student government this year has more resembled dealing with the small children back home than dealing with the teenagers. Making the same mistakes over and over, getting into petty fights, and after being told again and again what they're doing wrong, nothing working to stop them from doing it again. Even worse, the kids back home would at least readily admit to what they did. The HSU has been so defensive, refusing to listen to criticism and responding to concerned students with snark.

Often times, when a student makes a mistake, the community they are in assessed how cool they are. Cool students, it is said, did nothing wrong, a false accusation. Uncool students have lost their one strike and whatever they've done is never dropped. This results in everyone being terrified to admit to making mistakes, never ceding or apologizing or else risk losing their reputation for the rest of their years.

So here is a step by step Accountability Process for most minor conflicts.

Step One: "You done fucked up"

Someone tells the heinous criminal what they did wrong.

Step Two: "You're right, I don't fucked up."

The heinous criminal apologizes, there are other articles about what a good apology entails. In short, it involves taking full responsibility for what one has done wrong, stating why it was wrong, saying what they'll do to make sure they don't do it again, and accepting any consequences for this action without protest.

Step Three: "That's Not Enough, You Also Need To..."

Now, if those harmed do not accept this apology as enough, then they may state what they feel would be enough to make up for the heinous crime. That may be "leave me alone forever." Those harmed are never obliged to personally forgive the heinous criminal. However, if the heinous criminal accepts the consequences and actions offered by those harmed, then that brings us to step four

Step Four: "Okay, It's Over"

The community silently agrees that it is over. They do not bring up the incident anymore until the heinous criminal commits another heinous crime. That is to say, if someone mentions eating with a henious criminal who has gone through an acountability process, a community member should not say "Oh... that person is problematic." Such treatment is only deserving of those who have committed really really serious shit and have not gone through any kind of accountability process. However, if the heinous criminal does some other shit again, then it is time to say "Seriously? More shit? Again?" and more serious consequences must come out.

There! A simple four step accountability process! Of course more nuanced ones can be made but let us all decide that at the minimum we can work with something like this. The purpose of having steps three and four is so that heinous criminals will actually do step two. Admit to your fucking mistakes, do it. Having a Hampshire confessional. This isn't meant to be fun, it's consequences, punishment, so that we can all move past it. Next time y'all fuck up, I expect this from you.

#### Why I Quit Our Student Government

Article and background zoho request (viewable on zoho, with blacked name included and all) submitted by Xavier Torres de Janon

At the end of my last student government have retreat, when final comments were being said, I raised my hand and spoke my mind:

"I just want to point out that the organizers of this event are mostly, if not completely, all male-bodied and white.

I sat back down, put up with the comments of some students, and left the inconclusive, 3+ hour-long, fancy Saturday meeting. Recently, I decided to finally guit this monster paradoxically named Hampshire Student 'Union' (HSU), this political hydrathat, for some inexplicable personal reasons from a few students that are too involved for their own good, has been kept alive way too long. Underrepresentation is just one of the smallest issues the HSU possesses, but, due to the work I do in this college, is one of the most important in my mind.

Before continuing, some quick history (as told by the very-much-biased Xavier; my facts may Comments and Complaints

be wrong):

Some 2-3 years ago, it was determined that Hampshire's governance structures (student, staff and faculty) were insane and needed to be revamped urgently. Hampshire will be reevaluated for reaccreditation on 2017, so the literal survival of the school was/ is dependent on its faulty governance. The former student government, Community Council, had lost its power and logic, and so programs and workshops and meetings were developed to remake the whole thing. During my first semester, F12, the Purpose, Values and Scope (PVS) of the new government existed (created during the summer), and its structure was beginning to be envisioned. I quickly became involved since I was legitimately

interested in student government and wanted something shiny in my resumé. During S13, I was one of the co-chairs for the Student Government Association (SGA) Implementation Task Force.

With absolute honesty, most of the decisions and choices were made by the Div IIIs in the ark - Listen t... meetings held by the Task Force, and because, understandably, they wanted to give birth to this creature before they left, the Task Force was pushed forward very hastily. An idea of what the system would look like was conceived, yet the specific details of its functions, esta limitations, inner workings and membership were overlooked, not to mention a big gap in true outreach to more, uninvolved students for commentary.

Summer '13, no work is done; skip to F13, the make-shift HSU is brought to life, and it begins to fall apart since its inception. I eventually decided to quit Coordinating Board, the theoretically 'powerless body' that was only meant to serve as a hub of communication and

(Appropriate) planification of Town Meeting. made this decision because I left every meeting with a terrible headache; it was getting in the way of my academics; no one Total Amount Requested seemed to respect or see the humanity of each other; other members quit; I was getting no validation or recognition for my work; and, overall, it was just plain unhealthy for me. However, I decided to join Accountability Board (formerly Committee of 10, the government 'police' that was meant to keep everything accountable and transparent) to keep helping to make the structure actually work. Add to the equation a lot of personal frustration, disappointment,

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a bad reputation, a lack of vision to actually make the HSU work from fellow students, and my realization that my academics and career are my priority. Result: I quit HSU altogether this S14 semester. \*Whew.\*

Now, I will say the following: The HSU is

terribly broken, inefficient, no longer credible, and, to be honest, corrupt in its pseudoideals of shared governance, transparency,
anti-oppression and inclusivity. Quite

frankly, our student body was much better with the quasianarchic Community Council system because at least it had a defined documentation and purview, a fact that the HSU continues to disastrously lack.

And it at least recognized (in paper) the importance of having a power position reserved for a SOURCE student (who was very much tokenized and microaggressed, but that's another story). Directly related to why I dropped out is the experience I had when I tried extremely hard to push for documentation to be voted in and institutionalized, but saw the project brought down by irrationally overcommitted students who insist on staying in 'power' while they see all their fellow students leave angrily. And currently, the Deus Exices. Machina, \$13,000-worth Keeling & Associates consultation is apparently expected to fix all our student governance problems, which, in my opinion, have become more problems of ridiculous interpersonal and self-interested feuds rather than what's really best for the student body. On a side-note, the fact that the Dean of Students Office would pour ~\$7,000 on this beast rather than on more important student well-being projects, and that I and another student had to basically beg the Office for support for a much more significant anti-racist

endeavor deeply disturbs me. But I digress. The HSU has become indomitable and almost irreparable. I repeatedly attempted to help put a temporary stop to the structure for a deep revisioning before it got into its current ludicrous state (e.g. sending an all-student announcement for an unacceptably inappropriate stipiend voting process that almost disenfranchised a few previously interested students and their personal finances). I will say that productive steps do exist. But I have yet to see any of them taken, and burned out too much to care anymore.

#### The Re-radicalization<sup>1</sup> of Hampshire College **MANIFESTO**

### Submitted by Olivia Vazquez

We believe this institution has been losing its way by slowly becoming less and less unique through educing its commitment to independent work. Our protest<sup>2</sup> is born of genuine care and love for Hampshire College. The latest Division-1 development has nearly eliminated independent work from the structure in the First-Year Program, without replacing it or encouraging it elsewhere in the Hampshire divisional system prior to Division-3. Without such preparation, will students have the skills and experience necessary to meet the demands of independent work of Division-3? What is happening to the expectation of *independence* of thought on which Hampshire was founded?

These concerns prompt us to call for the following:

- 1. Independent work must be immediately and meaningfully re-incorporated into the structure of the Division-1. This should best be done by designating the second or third semester as a time to do at least one project-based course or independent study.
- 2. We ask for the dissolution of the Office of the Dean of Academic Development and its replacement with a committee consisting of a minimum of 2 students, 2 staff, and 2 faculty elected by their constituencies. The primary people who should be responsible for creating Hampshire's academic development are those involved in the Hampshire classroom. No amount of surveys or questionnaires will ever replicate the knowledge and experiences of individual students and professors. The committee will be charged with identifying new and innovative ways to improve and build upon the Hampshire educational experience in terms of the values upon which the college was founded.
- 3. A top priority for hiring professors should be their ability and willingness to form meaningful relationships with students that integrate the academic and personal spheres. It is unacceptable that a significant number of professors who embody such qualities go unacknowledged, so much so that they get re-appointed only with dramatic student protest. We need to channel the feedback that goes beyond credentials. Re-hiring and search committees should solicit substantial student recommendations for prospective faculty.<sup>3</sup>
- 4. We ask for a renewed interest in faculty involvement in the community outside of the classroom, including residential life. Working connections should be created between staff and professors so that what is learnt in class is brought to real life in the community.
- 5. "The Making of the College," Hampshire's founding document, should be re-printed and made widely available to the community at large.
- 6. Entering students should be able to state their preference for an advisor and, independent of their first year tutorial, be assigned a faculty member on that basis. Additionally, students should be allowed to change advisors according to the same rules as Division-2 and Division-3 students. Finally, advisors need to be better trained at fulfilling their role effectively.
- 7. We ask that each of the five academic schools create more co-taught interdisciplinary courses in order to encourage a better sense of academic community. Exploring interests and connections with other subjects in new ways inspires faculty and students.

E-mail: <u>radicalhampshire@yahoo.com</u> for questions or to add your name to the list of signers of this manifesto. More to come soon.

This was written ten years ago and most of it is still entirely relevant. (Also, Re-Rad meets on Mondays @ 5:30 in FPH 101.)

<sup>1.</sup> From Latin *radic-*, *radix* root: arising from or going to a root or source

<sup>2.</sup> This protest is not about the recent smoking ban issues, although what we discuss will include some of the same issues raised by the smoking ban protests, such as the lack of dialogue between the student body and the decision making body

<sup>3.</sup> Both from Hampshire students taught by the professor, and student recommendations for new faculty from their previous institutions

#### To The Hampshire Community:

As you might have seen in the last issue of the Omen, I recently had a letter published expressing my dismay with (among other concerns) a hiring decision made at Hampshire College. However, before writing and submitting said letter, I neglected to do the work necessary to understand the complexity of the situation, who would be affected by my words, and the factual errors and omissions in my original piece. To put it bluntly, I goofed up.

Thankfully, being an open forum, the Omen is an excellent place to offer up some lessons that I have learned from this experience. My hope is that my clarifying matters and offering a sincere apology to all involved, readers of this letter might be prevented from making the same mistakes that I did.

In my previous letter, I touched up a number of problems which have become salient in discussions with my peers at this institution. The main point I addressed was the hiring decision, so I'd like to clear that up first. In my first letter, I implied that Hampshire made a rash, political decision in not hiring a certain adjunct instructor as a permanent faculty member. Needless to say, this is an extremely oversimplified reading of the situation.

I wrote my last letter in a distressed state without seeking clarification about how exactly hiring decisions work at Hampshire (or any other college). Academic positions are not like just any other job; national candidate searches must be conducted for any position before a candidate can be hired. I am informed that this is to prevent hiring decisions from being made solely with an "old boys' network" which is still in place at too many institutions. As a committed social justice advocate, I am of course in favor of policies that correct for historical and ongoing exclusionary hiring practices that prevent candidates from marginalized backgrounds (such as white women and people of color) from having equal access to jobs and opportunities. Thus, my critique of the hiring

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decision was lacking a context and a history. Moreover, it is not even possible for the college to simply "create" a position for a beloved adjunct faculty member; all hiring decisions are subject to multiple levels of oversight and input to ensure fairness and to prevent discrimination and favoritism. This also seeks to guarantee that the best candidate is hired for the position.

Now that I have addressed the hiring decision, I would like to turn to some other matters I wrote about in my previous letter. In that letter, I implied that Hampshire does not adequately address issues of sexual assault, financial aid, student housing, and college finances. While I have my complex opinions about all of these matters, I would like to say that I did not allow adequate space to explore these issues in the appropriate complexity or to develop substantive arguments about these other pressing problems. In my haste to make broad claims about Hampshire College's administrative practices, I neglected to secure evidence to justify the positions which I did express. With this in mind, I would like to retract all further statements I made, not because I necessarily disagree with the sentiments behind them, but rather because I would like to reserve the right to further develop my thoughts on these matters and conduct additional research into them before I publicly comment on such sensitive matters.

Finally, I made a direct ad hominem attack on President Lash, and this was just completely unnecessary, unjustified, unprofessional, and uncaring. I would like to withdraw this statement and apologize wholeheartedly. I know it can often feel good to lash out at powerful individuals; but unless such remarks are directly tied to substantive critiques of an authority figure's actions, they can result in personal offense and ultimately can undermine any larger political arguments one might hope to make. In other words, my statements were unkind and counterproductive, and for these reasons I retract them and issue a sincere apology. I am sorry, President Lash.

The Omen  $\cdot$  Volume 42, Issue 6 Finally, I would urge any reader of this letter not to abandon sustained political critique (in any form), but rather to do two things: Best of luck to all who agitate, Quin Rich

#### 1. Do your research

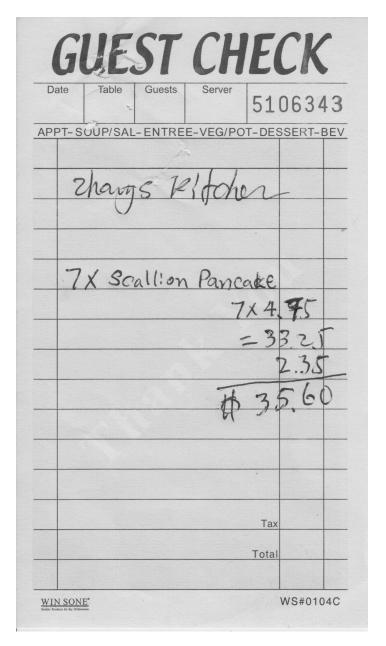
You arguments will be more effective if they are targeted, incisive, and supported by the facts. I could make a long argument here about what constitutes legitimate factual support for an argument, but let me just say that whatever that might look like, I certainly did not have it when I wrote my last letter.

#### 2. Be caring

Please consider all the people who will be impacted by public statements and political critiques. This is not a call to "be civil" or to avoid rocking the boat, but rather to ensure that whatever critique you might make only targets the groups and individuals that you intend it too. Too often I have made statements which were overly broad or wrongly directed. This led me to attack people who were only tangentially involved or uninvolved in the matter I was addressing. Better not to use a shotgun when an arrow will do.

Hampshire is a wonderful institution, with brilliant, engaged students; caring and knowledgeable faculty; and a rich history of political activism and public critique. I for the life of me would not want to disparage any other these facets of our College, for which I am eternally grateful. Rather, I would like only to offer up my own experience as an opportunity to learn about what is and what is not effective political engagement.

To know is not enough, but it's a necessary first step. I didn't think before I spoke, and it blew up in my face, affecting many people about whom I care very deeply and who were utterly blameless from the start.



-Jonathan Gardner

### SECTION:

New Study Finds Linguists Most Knowledgable About Murder Reprinted with permission from Vol. 42, Issue 6 of The Nemo Journal of Science Submitted by Jesse Ide

A new study has found that linguistics majors and professors, of all people on a given college campus, are the most knowledgable about the process and steps of committing and covering up a murder. Scientists from the University of Massachusetts surveyed undergraduates, graduates, and professors on 27 college campuses, asking participants to describe step-by-step what one should do if they should commit a murder. Participants were also quizzed on various aspects of killing different beings, humans, animals, plants, ideas, in different circumstances. Results showed that participants who studied linguistics were the most knowledgable about murder. When confronted with this news, linguists were not surprised.

"I mean, at least half the example sentences in my Intro to Syntax textbook involved murder," said one undergrad, who had shrugged her shoulders when she heard the news. "Makes you wonder what kinds of dark secrets are in Andrew Carnie's past."

Dr. Nancy Champagnski, visiting professor of psycholinguistics at Swangledon College in Southston, Vermont; brought forward an excerpt from the textbook she uses in her Acquisition of Morphosyntactic Processing class.

"We can observe this phenomenon in (1)

(1) After slitting her throat, John used bleach to get rid of the stains.

"Slitting" takes the prefix -ing, even though the event

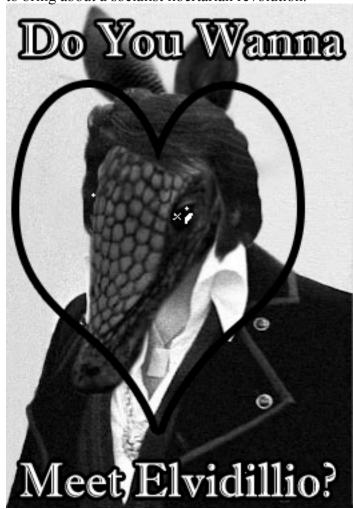


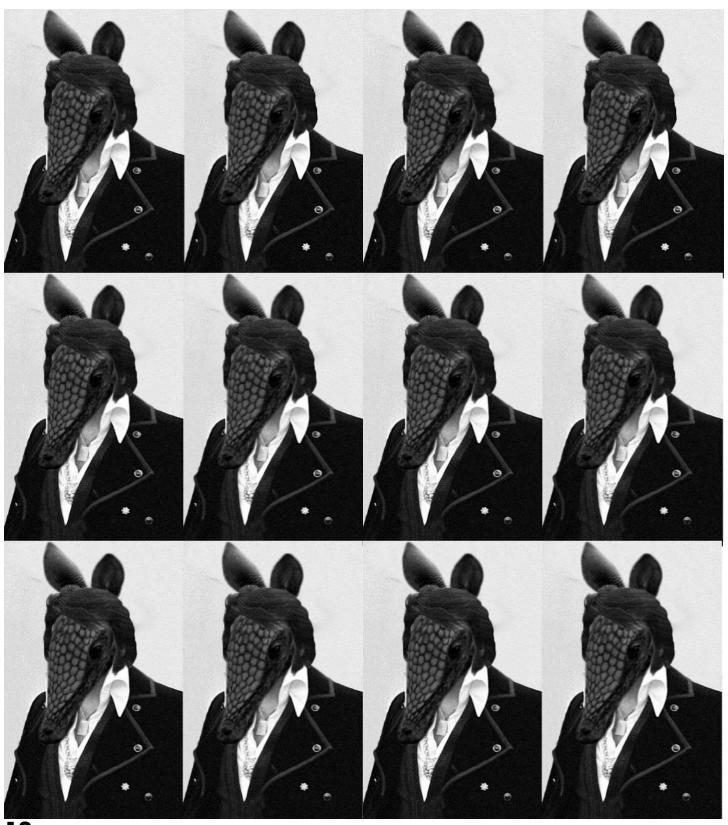
is in the past. Observe (2)

(2) \*After slitted her throat, John using white vinegar to clean the floor.

Not only is (2) ungrammatical, there will still be evidence remaining with which the police could convict John. "

Already, top conspiracy theorists in the psychoanalysis program at Hampshire College are speculating that Noam Chomsky has been attempting to subconsciously teach linguists the necessary steps to assassinate top CEOs and politicians around the world, to bring about a socialist libertarian revolution.

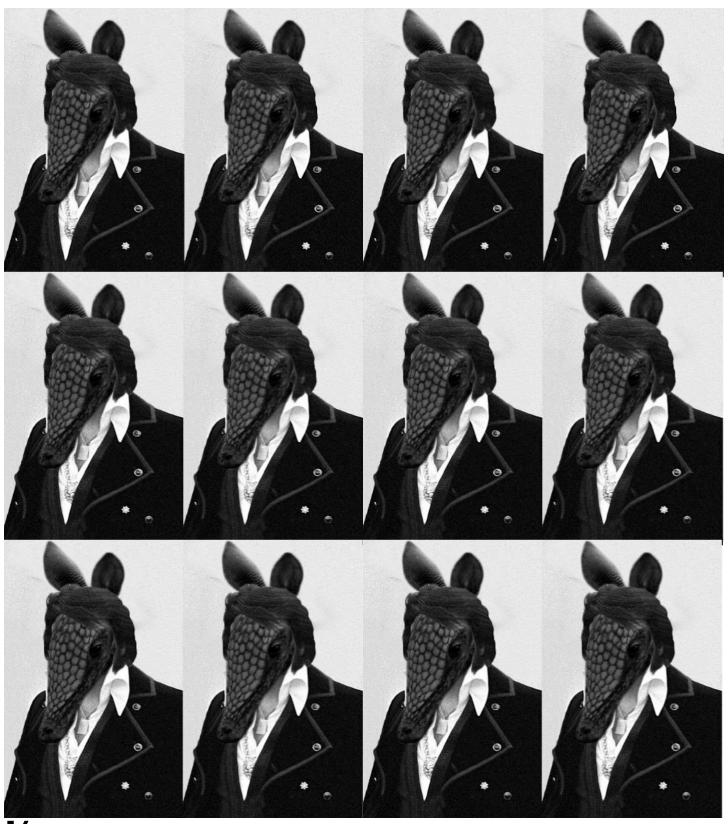














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### Section: Hate

SUBJECT:

[DEATH TO THE CLIMAX] please

<- Submitted by Fiona Stewart-Taylor

DATE:

014-04-22 22:02

FROM:

[redacted] < [redacted] @hampshire.edu>

TO:

Omen@lists.hampshire.edu

remove me please. please

SUBJECT:

Re: [DEATH TO THE CLIMAX] One last

layout DATE:

2014-04-22 22:56

FROM:

[redacted] <[redacted]@hampshire.edu>

ΤO

The Omen announcements and discussion <omen@lists.hampshire.edu>

May I be removed from the mailing list, please?

Thanks.

> https://lists.hampshire.edu/mailman/listinfo/ omen [1]

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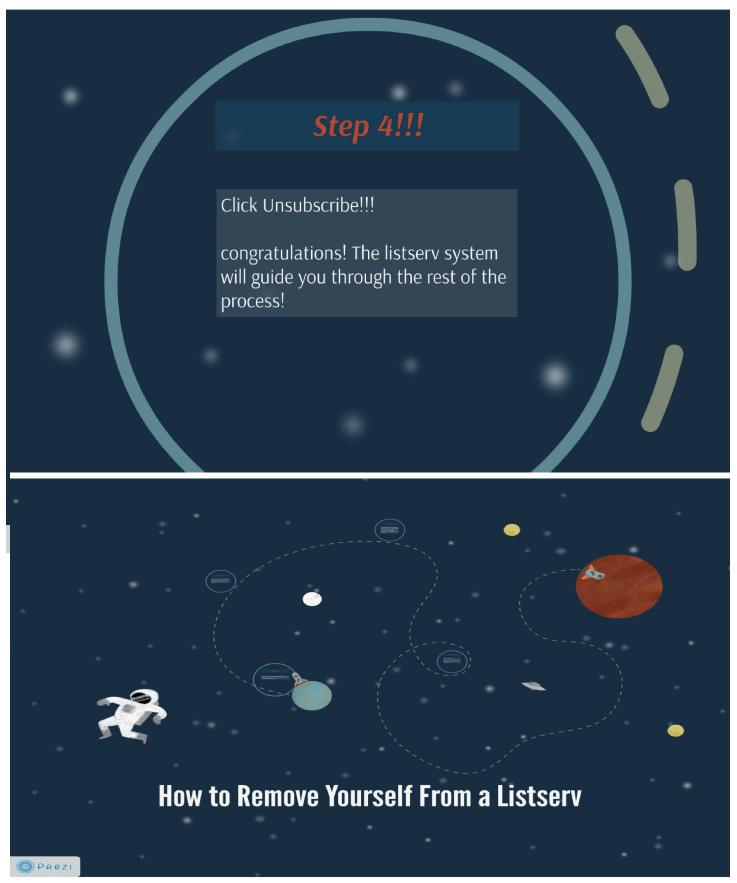
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#### BY GRACE WILLEY









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Hello Omen.

Would you please include this in your next issue of the Ome. Thanks.

For Up Onto The Great Ambitions

#### **Connor Doyle**

Sing a heavenly sing-song

Flap your heart in two

Shave the rats and seat the cats

Until they all go meuw.

Beware the heads within the beds

Of daffodills and phlem.

Maple rakes can take the cake

Unless you flake the hem.

And if you wonder were youre going it is into the GREAT OBLIVION

SHIVION SMIvion Plivion Wivion Hivion Mivion Tivion

;kladfb flippity adsfgqewrt floppoity asdfg asdfqwer

asdfawefrt

(Goodbye koala bean!) #yolo

Do monkeys ever need to think about financing? Is there a monkey equivalent? Banana savings and bonds, building your nest bushel of bananas?

Is there animosity between zoo monkeys and monkeys out in the world? Are the zoo monkeys yuppies that the free monkeys look down upon, as they are not living an authentic monkey life? Do the zoo monkeys see the wild monkeys as savages with no manners, no sense of primate propriety? Or do they even think about one another at all? Is there a free monkey wishing they knew why their lover left them? there a zoo monkey wishing they could find their home and family again, that leaving wasn't their choice?

If we could decipher the screeches of the zoo monkeys and the free monkeys, would they be talking about financing?

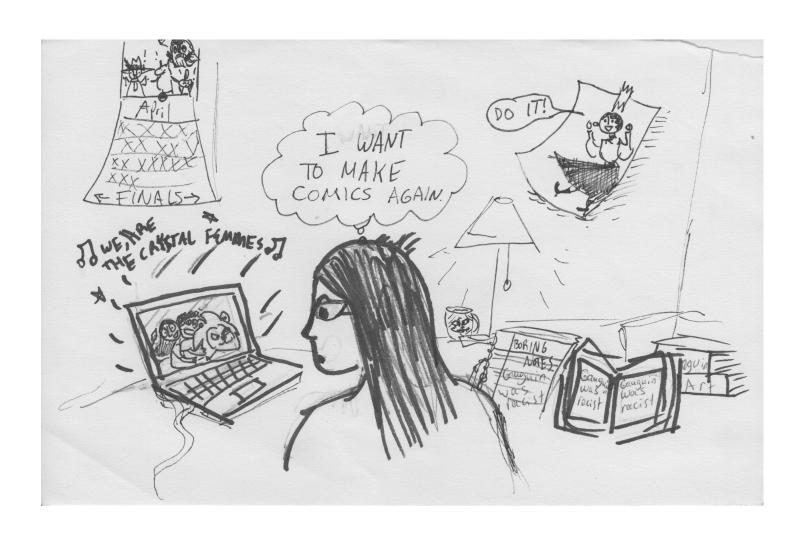
#### ^ BEN KIEM v

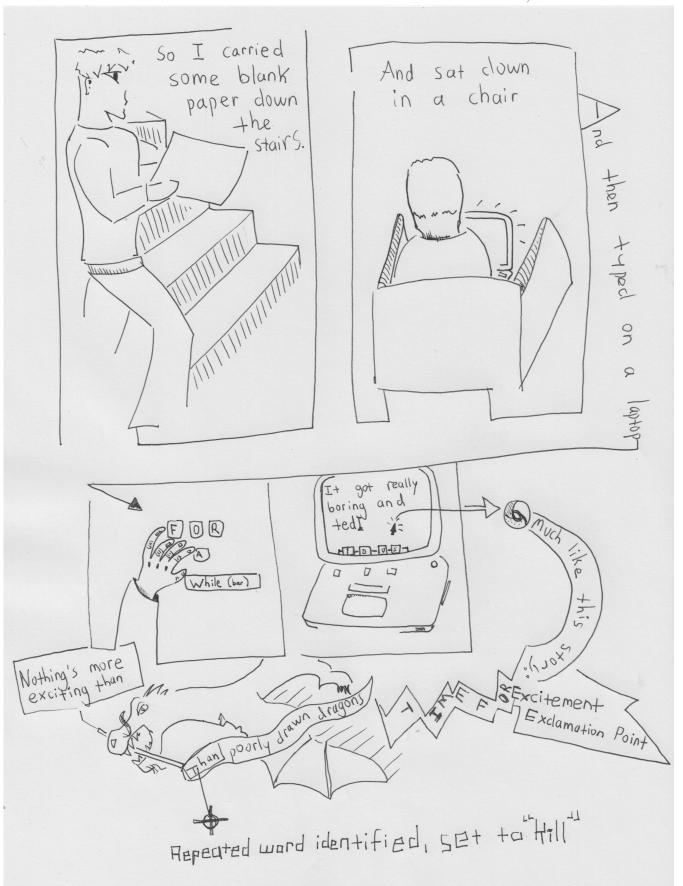
Thank you to socks, indistinguishable from one another, but providing the important service of warmth and the basic barrier between warm feet and the cold hard floor. I apologize for the smell, and the moisture, and although you are modest and will politely say you welcome it, and that is is just part of the job, I still wish to extend an amends for these everyday hazards. Don't fret, dear stockings, when you are removed and piled into the hamper of dirt and rejection. Try not to feel envious, when you see that after you are discarded, you are replaced immediately. It does not mean I forgotten you, oh no. You are valued. We will meet again in one to two weeks, when you will be born anew, arisen from the cycle of water and air.



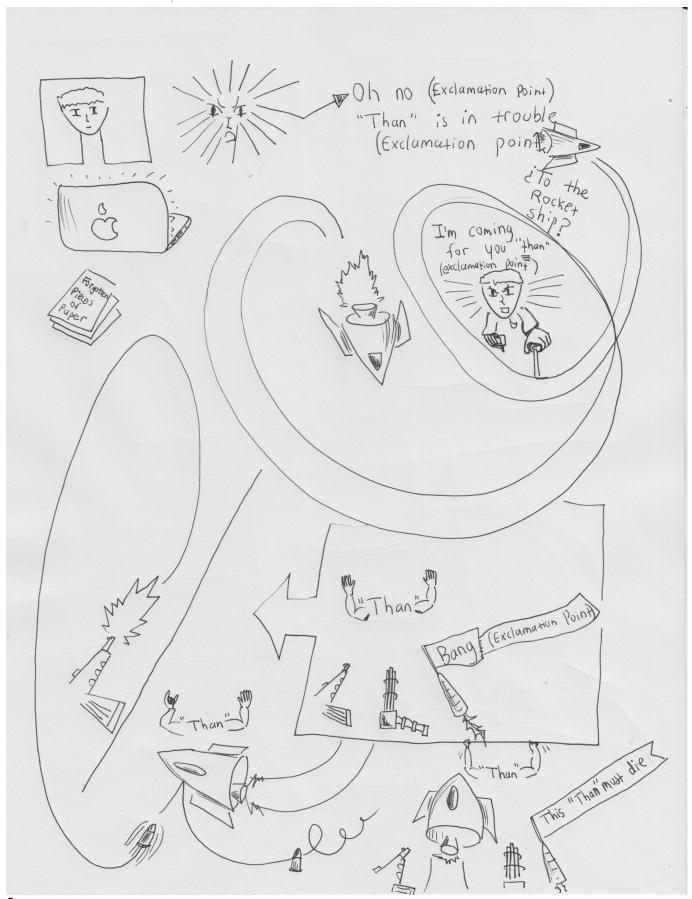
**B CORFMAN** 

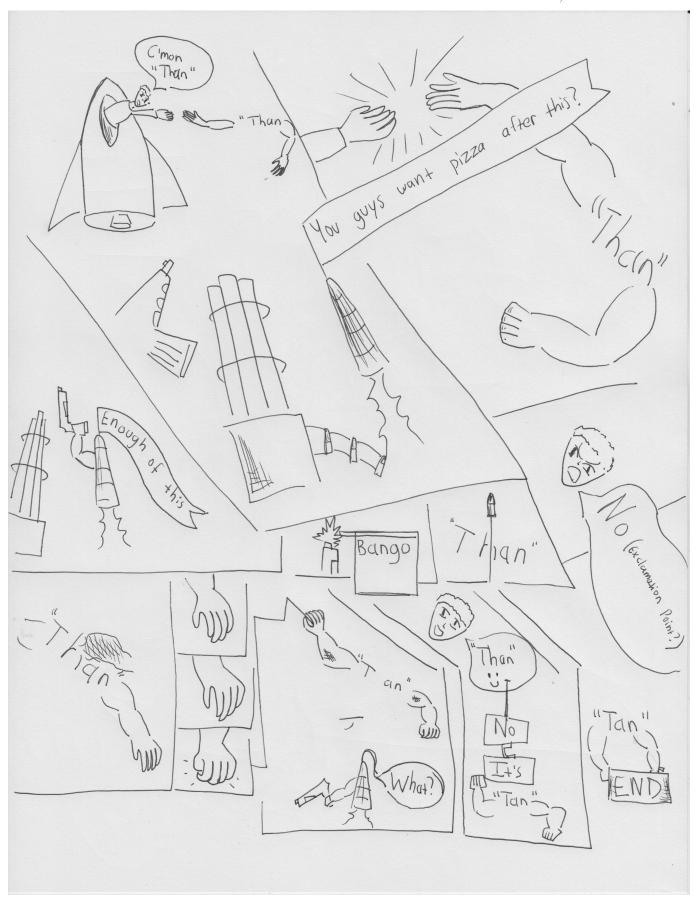
Isaiah is the human embodiment of hate and also wrote the comic on the upcoming page. Grace illustrated the illustration below this excessive text.





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## conGRADulations!

from Miss May

& Playbadger, Some of the gentleman mustidaeophile"